

'BUM' RODGERS AND CUNNIFFE SPLIT AFTER BITTER QUARREL OVER GIRL

'Killer' So Bloodthirsty He Shocked Underworld; Deserted by His Pals

The inside story of the attempt to rob the air mail at Hadley Field is told in today's installment of the sensational revelations made by X-4196, intimate of many underworld desperadoes. The writer also reveals the cause of the break between Killer Cunniffe and Bum Rodgers.



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INSTALLMENT NO. 10

There was considerable hard feeling among certain members of the mob over the killing of Danco. Bum Rodgers, of course, stood with Jimmy Cunniffe, but Illinois Billy and Chi Spud were sore at Cunniffe.

They thought the killing was unnecessary, and when they all got back to Jersey Illinois Billy and Chi Spud quit the gang, and the plans to stick up the various air mail stations which they had investigated were all shot to pieces.

Later on Scar Face Brogan severed his relationship with Bum and Cunniffe and then still later Bum Rodgers and Jimmy had an argument over a girl, and Bum stepped out to shuffle for himself.

Shocked Other Crooks

Now Cunniffe had lost all his co-workers by his mad ambition to be known as a leader and a killer and a bad man with a gun. He was "nuts" on the subject of building up a reputation as a hard boiled egg. I don't think he was "all there."

He took a delight in gun fights and he would go out of his way to mix in a gun play. I predict that he'll cash in with a gun in his hand. If the law doesn't kill him, somebody will, because he's a bad hombre, as the Mexicans say.

(Editor's Note—This article was written before Cunniffe's death, at the hands of a pal in Detroit.)

He was alone when he got back to New York. He had to have a pal, so he doubled up with a fellow called "West Side Billy Crowley."

Quarreled Often

Now Billy was no "bargain" when it came to putting up any kind of a battle. He was good with his fists and good with his gun. When we heard that he and Cunniffe doubled up all of us were sure that it was only a matter of time until they would be at each other's throat.

We knew that Cunniffe and Crowley would be fighting for leadership. They were too much alike to get on as human beings ordinarily do. I saw very little of them after they doubled up. They made their headquarters in Jersey. I heard they were living in Newark and then later on I heard they had a flat in Jersey City.

I heard nothing definite about them until the murder at Hadley Field, when that man Kearney and his boy were killed. Now I've got the inside details on that job and I'll tell them to you.

Bum Not There

First of all, Bum Rodgers was not there when the killing occurred. Bum was to be there and would have been there if Cunniffe and Crowley hadn't "gummed up the works" with that unnecessary gun play.

They had "framed" to stick up the Hadley Field mail truck which carried the mail from Stelton station on the Pennsylvania Railroad

tion, where he was to meet Cunniffe and Crowley.

The "heavy jack" went out that night to Stelton station. Bum had received the tip from the crooked mail truck driver. Everything was all right. Cunniffe and Crowley were waiting for him.

"Breaks" Went Wrong

But the unexpected had happened. It was a bad night. It had been raining. The road between Stelton station and the air mail field, about three miles, was slippery from the rain. It was a foggy night. The car that Cunniffe and Crowley drove got off the road into a ditch. They had to have help to get out of the ditch.

They got the help and proceeded to stall around until the arrival of the train. Then they had more trouble. Several people had seen them. The train was about due and they were in a hurry to get to the station to meet Bum. The air mail truck had passed them on the way to Stelton to get the mail. They were afraid that they wouldn't be able to stage the job that night.

Everything was going against them. The car was in the ditch again. The natives had had a look at them. They were sore.

Where was Bum? Why did everything have to break so bad that night? Now they realized that "the jig was up," and they were like madmen.

Anybody who got in their way was marked for death. Mr. Kearney and his boy got in their way and what happened to them is history; they slaughtered them in cold blood.

They made their getaway to Newark, where they met Bum later on that night. Cunniffe knew that several people had got a good look at him that night and that's why he killed Kearney and his boy.

He wanted to kill Mrs. Kearney, but Crowley wouldn't stand for it. He wanted to kill everybody that saw him. He had lost a \$500,000 "touch." I can imagine how he felt. I know what a tough hombre he was with a gun.

Sought Big Pay Rolls

Then came the Elizabeth job. The Elizabeth job was Crowley's. He was the bird who had discovered that several New York banks sent big pay rolls to Elizabeth. The "rap" (identification) had gone abroad that Cunniffe and Bum Rodgers had killed Kearney and his son. Nobody saw them around New York after the Hadley Field murders.

As a matter of fact, nobody in the New York underworld knew that Cunniffe and Crowley were the persons who killed Kearney and his son until after the Elizabeth stick-up. The night of the day of the Elizabeth stick-up I heard that Cunniffe and Crowley and Bum Rodgers and Scar Face Brogan had pulled off the Elizabeth job.

Now in connection with the Elizabeth hold-up, I have heard some very interesting rumors, and I am convinced that the Elizabeth job was, in some ways, an inside job. I am inclined to "fall" for one of these rumors because of the fact that Crowley was spending a lot of time around Elizabeth with a woman who was the sweetheart of a man who was "in right" with the underworld element of Elizabeth.

I know Crowley was spending a lot of time around Elizabeth with this woman because my girl knows the woman I am referring to. Furthermore, Crowley was "picked up" by the Elizabeth police a couple of times. This Elizabeth man, I have heard, is an ex-convict, having done a "bit" in the state prison at Trenton.

Once again the rumor of a crooked post office employee bobs up. It was said that this ex-convict was in close touch with a person who worked in the Elizabeth post office and that he, the post

Smith Gets Champion Belt; Crowds Cheer at Albany

(Special to The GRAPHIC)

ALBANY, Nov. 6.—Gov. Smith, the champion who didn't fall, came back to Albany last night to the most spontaneous welcoming blare that he has ever received in this city.

Bombs, flags, bands, a welcome committee, placards and a mob of enthusiastic citizens, greeted him as he stepped from his special car, although he had requested that he be allowed to enter the city quietly.

Passengers were caught in the jam, and many missed their trains, as the station became as packed as a New York subway.

Mayor Thacher of Albany greeted New York state's only fourth-term governor and gave him a large green belt, with the word "Champion" sewed upon it in gold letters. The governor donned it and stepped into the crowd. Outstretched hands reached for him everywhere. The band played "Sidewalks," and "The Gang's All Here."

Somebody hoisted a pole with a placard reading: "We'll all see you march on Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C., in 1928."

With Mayor Thacher at his side, the governor started on the mile walk to the mansion. The welcoming committee and a huge crowd fell in behind and paraded to the mansion grounds.

"I'm glad I'm home," said the governor, "where I can stay for a while longer."

office man, was in love with the girl with whom Crowley was intimate. The girl, it may be said right now, didn't know that Crowley was an underworld man. At least I have heard that she didn't. She was not an underworld woman.

Monday, "X-4196," Rodgers's one-time pal, will give further details of the underworld gangsters' activities in their organized war on society.

Seeking \$35,000 From W. S. Ward On His Estate

Will Walter S. Ward, who disappeared mysteriously last May as a late after-math, some persons think, of the slaying of Clarence Peters, and who has been considered "dead," return to face the \$35,000 suit brought by the murdered man's parents?

This question today caused much speculation when the parents of Peters sought compensation for the murder of their son.



Yesterday, as a result, subpoenas were served ordering ten witnesses to appear in the Federal Court here on November 15.

A Westchester county grand jury acquitted Ward of the death of Peters, when the accused claimed that he had shot in self-defense.

To reporters Ward's wife, at her home in Yonkers, said she was unaware of his whereabouts and knew not whether he was alive or dead.

If Ward does not appear, Humphrey J. Lynch, counsel for the dead man's parents, in Haverhill, Mass., said he would take judgment by default and levy against the estate.

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